



Re-licensure Processes to Reinforce Site-Based Professional Development

BARRE – The newly adopted [Education Quality Standards](#) (EQS) state: “Each school shall employ instructional and administrative staff members who possess the knowledge and skills to implement the standards in alignment with professional educator standards established by the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators.”

In many cases, these standards call for ambitious changes in the way our teachers teach. Achieving them will take a more coherent approach than requiring every teacher to individually document a couple hundred hours of training every seven years. For this reason, the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) voted this week to streamline re-licensure requirements for practicing teachers. Details will be worked out in the rule-making process.

At the March 19, 2014 VSBPE meeting, a motion was passed unanimously to revise the re-licensure process for Vermont educators in the following manner:

1. Renewal period is five (5) years.
2. Within the new five-year cycle, educators earn six (6) credits (90 hours) specific to the Core Teaching & Leadership Standards for Vermont Educators, distributed across one or more categories.
3. Evidence/documentation of credits/hours will be presented for verification to a governing authority to be determined by the VSBPE.
4. Educator is in compliance with VSBPE Rule Series 5500 and Vermont law.

“The Board is eager to collaborate with the Agency of Education to strengthen the Education Quality Review process being developed to improve teacher effectiveness individually and as a teaching team,” said VSBPE Chair Dr. Steven John. “In streamlining the educator license process for renewal, we concluded that annual assessments of teacher performance are more effective at the school district level if the process remains separate from the VSBPE’s properly independent authority to establish and review standards for a professional educator’s license.”

Moving forward, the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) and the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) will collaborate on a plan to ensure that every child has a high quality teacher by:

- Using the VSBPE’s [Core Teacher Standards](#) as the basis for assessing the quality of proposed Teacher Growth, Development and Evaluation models at the district level;

- Developing Education Quality Review teams, consistent with the [Education Quality Standards](#) that verify whether systems in place for teacher supervision and evaluation are leading, or are likely to lead to, systematic, continuous improvements in learning;
- Providing specific, focused, descriptive evidence on teaching viewed during the Education Quality Review team visits.

“This decision came out of a series of discussions and a lot of give-and-take across multiple groups. We all want the work of our teachers to be as purposeful as possible” said Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe. “I appreciate how seriously we take education in Vermont, and I look forward to making sure this decision by the VSBPE helps our schools develop more skilled teachers and fosters better learning across the state.”

Learn more about the VSBPE here: <http://education.vermont.gov/professional-standards/vsbpe>.

Learn more about the EQS here: <http://education.vermont.gov/state-board/eqs>.

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